(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for which such important and costly machines remain non-functional for a long period;

(d) whether Government have made an independent enquiry in this regard with a view to fix responsibility;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) In Central Government Hospitals in Delhi *i.e.* Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, all the machines such as CT Scan, ECG machines, MRI machine, Audiometry machine, Ventilators etc. are working properly and are being utilized.

In cases the machines become non-functional due to wear and tear, immediate steps are taken to get them repaired in the minimum possible time.

Waiting for medical tests in AIIMS and other hospitals

†565. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that patients have to wait for long for various medical tests in AIIMS and other important hospitals in the country, particularly in the capital;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any effective steps to ensure medical check-ups/tests in short time; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In AIIMS various tests are done for patients as prescribed by

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

treating doctors. Routine blood, urine and X-ray investigations are normally done on the same or next day. However, for specialized investigations like Contrast X-rays, CT Scan, Bone Scan, MRI, TMT, Muga, Echo etc., the patients are given dates depending upon availability of time. For hospitalized in-patients and emergency patients the investigations are done at AIIMS on the same day at the earliest. In other Central Government hospitals in the capital routine medical tests including X-ray are normally done on the same day. However, specialized tests and radiological investigations are conducted with a reasonable period of patient's preparation.

Report on use of off-label drugs

566. SHRI RÂMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up an Expert Group comprising doctors and pharmacologists in connection with the use of off-label drugs;

(b) if so, whether the Group has submitted its Report;

(c) what are the recommendations made by the Group;

(d) whether the Group has identified any drugs which are off-label to be used by doctors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Matters concerning off-label use of drugs *i.e.* use of a drug by a medical practitioner for indication, dosage form, dose regimen or other use parameter not mentioned in the approved labelling of drug, was examined by a group of experts under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Sambashivarao, Addl. DG, Dt. GHS. The Expert Group recognized the fact of off-level use of drugs by individual doctors based on their experiences. They also noted that such use is not within the ambit of